



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## \*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\* 18 June 2013

	Attendees		Visitors
<b>Chairman:</b>	Paul Funch	X	Bruce Easom
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Joachim Preiss	X	Helene Cahen
<b>Members:</b>	Ed Bretschneider	X	
	Wendy Good	X <i>Recorder</i>	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Olin Lathrop	X	
	David Minott	X	
	Scott Stathis	X	
	John Wiesner	X	

### Call to Order

At 7:40 pm Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members plus visitors present.

### Approval of Minutes

Good moved to accept the minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup>; Minott seconded; approved by unanimous vote.

### Reports

- Minott reported on Gamlin Crystal Spring hike led by Lathrop June 9<sup>th</sup>. It was also an AMC-sponsored hike. Twelve people and one dog attended, as did Mr. Gamlin, who is 84 years young. Beautiful day, wildflowers blooming, and short hike, so good for families.
- Upcoming hike will be July 28<sup>th</sup> at Gamlin Esker at 1:00 pm led by Minott. Susanna Black, steward of the land, will be there.
- Accessible Trails Workshop, June 18-19: Funch reported it was cancelled but will be rescheduled in October.
- McLain's Woods stream crossing stones are not enough due to more water. Funch reported he is looking into adding a log or board but will need Conservation Commission approval.
- MS XC course and trail: Funch reported it was progressing but may need some changes to loop on Smith Farm on Common St.
- Wharton Plantation trail recovery after logging operation had good turnout Saturday and is all done and marked on the east side of Old Dunstable Rd. Funch reported west side needs some more work. Need to consider a parking area on Old Dunstable Rd. Several potential locations were discussed.
- Funch reported on a Conservation Commission site walk on 80 acres of land at Westford border abutting Groton Woods. Easom explained the possible trail connections to Kissacook Hill and nearby Westford trails. Bill Harmon from Westford Conservation Commission is willing to help with trail links in Westford. This parcel may come up for tax title after three

years. Presently it is assessed at \$64,000 and taxes have not been paid. The Trails Committee was excited by trail connections and wildlife potential of the land since it is mostly dry and open woods. Lathrop moved we send a letter to the Conservation Commission urging them to pursue acquiring this parcel of land. Good seconded and vote was unanimous to do so.

- h) Funch reported that he, Legge, Lathrop, Minott, and Wiesner have all volunteered to man the booth for Riverfest on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- i) Funch reported hiking the newly acquired Walker- Cox town land with Jeff Collins from Audubon. Collins has been hired by the town to do baseline data documentation. Using the right of way thru Kris Corwin's property there can be several trails between Watson's Way/Brown Lane and Williams Barn-Sorhaug Woods and McLain's Woods. Ideally, the connection to Williams Barn would be across Chicopee Row at an entrance next to Stacey Chilcoat's property. There is an old road that can then easily be tied to existing trails. More hiking should delineate the best route to propose to Conservation Commission. Much of the land on Walker-Cox is wet so we may need to put in a couple bridges. Good emphasized that the old trail on this property is an important connecting trail for equestrians.

### **Discussions**

- a) Legge proposed a signage plan for the trails committee. He would like to sign trailheads and remote locations with trail choices. Good suggested maps rather than signs at trail intersections rather than cluttering woods with signs. Lathrop said maps are too difficult to maintain. Discussion followed on material and design. Engraved signs with consistency of design and aluminum nails were favored. Signs for trails of most interest might inspire newer trail users. Legge asked all members to send him ideas.
- b) List for recorders needed. Stathis volunteered for July and Legge for August.
- c) Funch discussed trail clearing equipment needs. Recently it was decided a new hand saw was needed. Preiss suggested a smaller power mower. We have a post hole digger.
- d) Paugus Trail entrance to Groton Woods needs posts. The Lawrence Academy students cleared it last year but it still needs clearing and marking. NDO is volunteering to offer 2-hour guided bike rides in Groton Woods in appreciation of trails there.
- e) Need to plan Fitch's Bridge opening ceremony next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting was approved unanimously at 9:55 pm.